

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

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| IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST) | ORDER GRANTING |
| FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY) | APPROVAL OF AN |
| EXCEPTION BETWEEN SOUTHEASTERN) | EXCEPTION TO THE |
| ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND) | ASSIGNED ELECTRIC |
| NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION) | SERVICE TERRITORY |
|) | EL00-035 |

On December 11, 2000, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a joint request from Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) and NorthWestern Corporation (NorthWestern) seeking approval of an agreement for a service rights exception. The purpose of the filing was to seek Commission approval for an exception to the existing electric service territorial agreement. According to the application, "Southeastern Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SEC) has assigned territorial rights to provide electric service to an area west Highway 37A in the Northwest Quarter of Section 8, Range 60 West, Township 97 North, Hutchinson County. Under the conditions of this agreement, SEC does hereby consent that NorthWestern Corporation may extend its facilities into the above described service area of SEC to provide electric service for a storage shed."

SEC and NorthWestern have entered into an agreement entitled "Exception to Service on Assigned Areas" dated December 1, 2000, and have filed the same with a signature of consent signed by Dennis Kurtz, the affected customer, concurring with the territorial transfer.

On January 4, 2001, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission considered the matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-4, 49-34A-42, and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that the service rights transfer is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that the joint request seeking approval of service rights transfer is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th day of January, 2001.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: _____

Date: _____

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

PAM NELSON, Commissioner

LASKA SCHOENFELDER, Commissioner